

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK HEALY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Patrick Healy as he prepares to conclude his long and storied career as one of Los Angeles' preeminent television reporters. For nearly four decades, Patrick has been on the front lines for just about every story that has shaped and defined the place we call home—all with unmatched integrity and dedication to public service.

Before he was an award-winning broadcaster, Patrick was an engineering student at UCLA—taking up the family's journalism tradition as a reporter for the Daily Bruin. Guided by L.A. newsroom giants like Jere Witter and Pete Noyes, he got his start writing and producing for local outlets across the Southland before landing his big break at NBC-4—a station which he would call home for the next 37 years.

Patrick has since become a fixture in Angelenos' living rooms, with his in-depth coverage of the most famous sagas of our generation: from Richard Ramirez and Rodney King to O.J. Simpson and Dr. Conrad Murray. Through them all, he always managed to bring us more than just the stories themselves—he also reveals the truths they tell about our communities, our people, and our country.

When he wasn't rushing to the scene of breaking news, Patrick has extensively covered environmental issues affecting California, including how drought and extreme weather caused by climate change are impacting the people and places we love. It is these stories that perhaps best unveil the noble motivation behind his work: to investigate and call attention to our challenges so we can ensure the Golden State remains a wonderful place for future generations to enjoy.

Patrick's love for his home state and hometown is undoubtedly what makes so many Angelenos connect instinctively with his reporting. And it is why, like his mentors before him, he will go down as one of the great L.A. broadcast journalists of our time. As Patrick likes to quote, "News is the first draft of history"—if that is so, he has left an indelible mark. And we thank him for it.

I ask all Members to join me in thanking Patrick Healy for his service to Los Angeles, to California, and to the nation, and in wishing him good health and great adventure in retirement.

HONORING WILLIAM THOMAS, JR.

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of William Franklin Thomas, Jr. of Pu-

laski, Virginia, who died on November 29, 2021 at the age of 87. Judge Thomas was a distinguished jurist who served for over two decades as a juvenile and domestic court judge.

Judge Thomas was born on January 2, 1934. He grew up in Pulaski and made it his lifelong home. After graduating from Pulaski High School in 1950, he attended Emory & Henry College and graduated from the University of Richmond. After earning a law degree from the University of Virginia, he began his legal career at the firm known at the time as Gilmer, Sadler, Harman & Thomas, mainly practicing real estate law.

In 1973, the Virginia General Assembly named him a Juvenile and Domestic Court Judge for the 27th Judicial Circuit. He sat on the bench until retirement on December 31, 1995, and served the Counties of Pulaski, Wythe, Carroll, Grayson, and Bland and the City of Galax. During his judicial career, Judge Thomas was widely respected for his commitment to the work and care for the children that came before him in court. As a symbol of the esteem in which Judge Thomas was held, the Pulaski County Bar Association commissioned a portrait of him, which now hangs in the county courthouse.

Beyond the bench, Judge Thomas found ways to serve his beloved Pulaski. He belonged to the Pulaski Jaycees, the Elks, and the Masons, and as a devout member of First United Methodist Church served on the Church Council. A keen interest in politics drove him to the 1960 Democratic National Convention as a delegate and to run in 2007 for the Virginia House of Delegates in the Sixth District.

Judge Thomas was preceded in death by his wife, Gertrude Davis Thomas; his parents, William Franklin Thomas Sr. and Virginia Saunders Thomas; and his sister, Elizabeth "Betty" Thomas Hicks. He is survived by a son, Lee Mason Thomas, and four nieces and nephews. I would like to offer my condolences on the loss of this good man and dedicated jurist.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOM LEATHERMAN

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Tom Leatherman to the nation and to the Bay Area.

Tom started his career with the National Park Service (NPS) in 1989 as an intern. During his time with NPS, Tom developed a strong working relationship with the Japanese American community. Starting in 2005, he served as a superintendent at Manzanar Historic Site. Additionally, Tom served as the regional representative for NPS's Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program.

Most recently, Tom worked as a superintendent of the four NPS sites in the Congressional District I represent, including Eugene O'Neil National Historic Site, John Muir National Historic Site, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, and Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park. The parks, through Tom's work, help provide visitors with the important history of the area.

In addition to the sites in the Eleventh District, Tom has served at a variety of NPS sites throughout his career including Joshua Tree National Park, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and more. Tom has held a number of positions throughout his career including superintendent, acting deputy regional director, and team lead for the Serious Accident Investigation Team.

Tom's experience and dedication make him the perfect fit to serve as superintendent of Pearl Harbor National Memorial. I thank Tom for his diligence and passion for preserving our nation's natural wonders and history and congratulate him on his new role. Please join me in honoring Tom for his more than thirty years of service to our nation's park system.

HONORING JOHNSTOWN MAYOR VERN JACKSON FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE NORTH COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 23, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Johnstown Mayor Vern Jackson who has valiantly served the North Country and the United States for over fifty years. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Jackson on his retirement after five great years as mayor of Johnstown.

Mayor Jackson has been dedicated to serving his community in many capacities throughout his storied career. Prior to entering politics, Mr. Jackson served in the United States Navy for twenty-five years and then worked for the Social Security Administration in Utica and Gloversville. After nearly thirty years at the Gloversville Social Security Office, Mr. Jackson retired and served as the chairman for the Johnstown Charter Review Commission. Subsequently, Mr. Jackson became the 4th Ward councilman and in 2017 was sworn in as the mayor of Johnstown. He was elected to complete the last year of the four-year term of his friend, the late Mayor Michael Julius.

Throughout the last five years, Mayor Jackson has worked hard to better the lives of the people of Johnstown. He prioritized cooperation with the city of Gloversville and Fulton County on issues that impacted their communities. Mayor Jackson understood the importance of a city's first impression after traveling

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.